John Paul II Center
SPECIAL LEARNING FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS

Special Blends Café by JPII

EMPOWERING STUDENTS. CHANGING LIVES. ONE CUP AT A TIME.

Located in Alvernia University's (AU) downtown-Reading American House location, *Special Blends Café by JPII* will be a community-based educational kitchen advancing workforce development for students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Why: *Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve meaningful opportunities to learn, work, and thrive in their communities. This experiential learning café will provide hands-on training that builds workplace skills, confidence, and pathways to employment close to home. Guided by JPII teachers and staff, the café will also serve as a collaborative training site for AU students in special education, occupational therapy, and business.*







Goals:

- Build social and emotional growth
- Enhance confidence, a sense of belonging and pride
- Build independence through hands-on learning
- Develop transferable job skills
- Build strong communication abilities
- Teach practical academics (money and language skills)

Timeline:

- **Jan. - March:** Completed the application for legal entity organization structure; secured a Trademark for business name and Logo; Hired a transition coordinator; Renovations and construction in full motion; Identifying and purchasing equipment, accessories; furniture with the awarded SPP grant funds
- **April - June:** Complete and submit license applications for Retail Food Sales and other Food certifications; Create work schedules for students and staff; Develop plan to integrate AU students; Install equipment; Prepare procedures for Café operations
- **Summer:** Turnover Café physical space to JPII; Conduct training for those working in the Café. Plan and execute the Grand Opening Event; Execute plan to integrate AU students in the teaching Cafe

***"To provide a future of lasting opportunity for skills development and meaningful work is incredible... Caleb now has a safe place to grow, to make a difference, and to earn his own money. As parents, this is what we hoped and dreamed for."* — A JPII Parent**

Questions: Contact Melissah Jablonski for more info at mjablonski@johnpauliicenter.org or 610-777-0605.